

## **Appendix B**

### **DEFINITION OF TERMS**

This glossary defines some common terms used in this plan and during a water emergency. In disseminating this glossary it is expected that state agencies, water suppliers, and municipalities will adopt the terminology so that discussions of issues may be consistent and information may be passed on to the public with a minimum of confusion. These definitions are consistent with the definitions in the DEM Rules and Regulations for Water Supply Management (WSM) Planning.

**Adjustable water uses** are those uses of water that are not essential to our health, safety, or welfare. Typically they are for aesthetic or ornamental purposes (lawn watering or car washing) and are associated with substantial loss to evaporation or runoff.

**Abandoned water supply** sources shall mean sources that are no longer used or maintained permanently disconnected surface waters or wells.

**Active water supply** sources shall mean RI Department of Health-approved sources of supply connected to a water system and available for distribution; these sources may be surface waters or wells, residential or other uses.

**CDSTARS**, an acronym for the Civil Defense State Radio System, is a point-to-point state radio system meant to provide state, local, and support agency communications prior to and during emergencies.

Chief Elected Official the highest elected official charged with the responsibility of managing the normal day-to-day government operations within a city or town. (In those cities and towns where the mayor, town administrator, town manager, first warden or other official is not elected by the people, the city or town council president shall be considered to be the local chief executive for disaster operations).

**Committee** shall mean the Governor's Advisory Committee for Water Emergencies.

**Community water system** is a public water system that pipes water for human consumption to at least 15 service connections used by year-round residents, or one that regularly serves at least 25 year-round residents (e.g., municipality, subdivision, mobile home park).

**Conservation** shall mean methods, procedures, and devices designed to promote efficient use of water and eliminate waste of water.

**Contamination** shall mean any violation of federal or state standards within the treatment facilities or distribution system, or any other part of the water supply system that affects public health or welfare.

**Declaration of Emergency** (Federal) is a proclamation issued by the President of the United States upon request of the governor that provides specialized assistance to meet specific emergency relief needs. "Emergency", as used in Public Law 93-288 means any hurricane, tornado, storm, flood, high water, wind-driven water, tidal wave, tsunami, earthquake, volcanic eruption, landslide, mud slide, snowstorm, drought, fire, explosion, or other catastrophe which threatens lives and property, public health and safety, and for which federal assistance is required to supplement state and local response efforts.

**Distribution facilities** shall mean the pipes and appurtenant facilities employed specifically to deliver, to dispense, to render or to circulate potable water to consumers.

**Drought** shall mean a condition of dryness due to lower than normal precipitation. For water supply purposes drought is associated with safe yield especially for conditions where a system cannot be replenished and failure is anticipated.

**Emergency Broadcast System [EBS]** organizes radio and TV stations in a given state or region into a unified, common program broadcasting arrangement similar to a combined radio and TV network for emergency program distribution and warnings.

**Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)** is a basic plan covering general instructions on disaster response procedures for local government. The plan delineates responsibilities, functions, and organizations and is supported by annexes outlining detail for specific emergency functions.

**Emergency response** shall mean the actions taken to minimize the effects created during an unexpected event by protecting the water supply environment and returning to a normal pre-emergency condition.

**Emergency water supply sources** shall mean not regular sources of supply but supplies held in reserve for use in emergencies. The use of emergency water supply sources must be approved by the RI Department of Health; these may be surface waters or wells.

**Extraordinary** demand shall indicate when average daily water supply needs exceed the capacity of pumping, treatment, or storage facilities. Extraordinary demand is determined by unusual conditions such as dry weather or drought, or because of an otherwise significant temporary increase in demand.

**Finance Officer** referenced as a division chief in the incident command system, is responsible for maintaining records of all costs and financial considerations of the incident inclusive of time, procurement, compensation and claims and cost.

**Hazardous materials** release is defined to include a large universe of chemical compounds in amounts and concentrations that, when released in an uncontained area into the environment, present a threat to human health or the environment. Areas noted relative to this plan are those releases within watersheds or recharge areas of surface or groundwater supplies.

**Incident Commander (IC)** is the individual responsible for the management of all emergency incident-related operations. There is always only one IC, however, command may be passed from one IC to another as the dimensions of an incident evolve.

**Incident Command System (ICS)** is the combination of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures, and communications operating within a common organizational structure with responsibility for the management of assigned resources to effectively accomplish stated objectives pertaining to an incident.

**Liaison Officer** is the point of contact for assisting or coordinating agencies, departments and personnel. (referenced as a member of the incident commander's staff).

**Logistics Officer** referenced as a division chief in the incident command system, is responsible for providing facilities, services, and materials for the incident including telecommunication services, which may refer to a vehicle used to provide the major part of an incident communications center.

**Mechanical failure** is a breakdown or malfunction of the infrastructure or equipment due to physical stress, operations, deterioration, vandalism, or fire, etc.

**Non-community water system** is a public water system that pipes water for human consumption to at least 15 service connections used by individuals other than year-round residents for at least 60 days a year, or serves 25 or more people at least 60 days a year (e.g.. schools. factories. highway rest stops).

**Non-transient non-community** water system is a non-community water system that serves at least 25 of the same persons over SIX months per year (e.g.. schools. factories. office buildings. industrial parks).

**Operations Officer** is responsible for all tactical operations at an incident: referenced as a division chief in the incident command system.

**Palmer drought** severity index is a numerical index value calculated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) which depict prolonged abnormal dryness or wetness. The index reflects soil moisture, runoff, recharge, percolation, and evapotranspiration.

**Planning Officer** is responsible for the collection, evaluation, dissemination, and use of information about the development of an incident and the status of resources; referenced as a division chief in the incident command system.

**Power failure** shall mean a prolonged insufficiency to provide service, which may affect the ability of a water supplier to maintain a safe and adequate drinking water supply.

**Public Information Officer** is responsible for interface with the media or other appropriate agencies requiring information from the scene of the incident or relative to the event.

**Public water system** is a system that provides piped water for human consumption if such system has at least 15 service connections or regularly serves an average of 25 individuals 60 or more days of the year. Such a system includes any collection, treatment, storage, pretreatment storage, and distribution facilities used primarily in connection with the system. A public water system is either a community or a non-community system and can be publicly or privately owned.

**Safe Drinking Water Act SDWA** Shall mean the federal legislation of 1974, amended in 1986, and reauthorized in 1996, to establish standards for drinking water safety.

**Safety Officer** is responsible for monitoring and assessing safety hazards or unsafe situations and developing measures for ensuring personnel safety (referenced as a member of the incident commander's staff).

**Safe yield (surface water)** shall mean a sustainable withdrawal which can be continuously supplied from a surface water supply source without adverse effects throughout a critical dry period with a 1% chance of occurrence, or one that is equivalent to the drought of record, whichever is more severe.

Safe Yield (aquifer or well) shall mean the rate of which groundwater can be withdrawn without producing unacceptable or undesirable effects such as drawdowns or changes in water quality.

**Service area** shall mean the geographic boundary within which service connections to customers of a water supply system are committed by charter of the water commission, board, or authority.

**Small water system** shall mean any system serving fewer than 3,300 persons.

**State of emergency** shall indicate a situation where the Governor declares an emergency condition sufficient to warrant state or federal involvement. State involvement is typically requested when local resources are exhausted and assistance is requisite to meet the public safety and welfare demands of the incident.

**Transient non-community water system** is a non-community water system that does not meet the definition of a non-transient non-community water system (e.g.. highway rest stops, restaurants, motels, golf courses, parks).

**Transmission facilities** shall mean the pipes, pumping stations, and storage facilities required to carry high volumes of potable water from a water source to distribution facilities, or throughout an area for the purpose of supplying water to the general population, or wholesale customers.

**Water shortage** shall indicate a condition when water that can be supplied by a system is less than the demand.

**Water supplier** shall be any municipality, municipal department, agency, district, authority, or other ~~private~~ entity engaged in or authorized to engage in the supply, treatment, transmission or distribution of drinking water to at least 15 service connections or an average of 25 persons 60 or more days of the year.

**Water supply emergency** shall include, but not be limited to, one or a combination of the following situations:

**Mechanical failure** or similar type of emergency including loss of power, loss of pumping capacity, loss of storage capability or major breaks or leaks which result in an inability to meet average daily demand of water.

**Water quality emergencies** due to contamination of the water supply, the distribution system or storage tanks which result in the inability to meet the average daily and maximum daily demand with remaining public water supplies.

**Seasonal water shortages** or inadequacy of source, distribution system or storage capacity to meet water supply needs.

**Water Supply Management Plan (WSMP)** is a comprehensive water supply management plan that was submitted by each water supplier selling greater than 50 MGY (million gallons per year) to the Department of Environmental Management, Division of Water Supply Management, which included an emergency management component outlining responsibilities and actions the supplier will take to assure water supply during an emergency.

**Water Supply System Management Plan (WSSMP)** is a comprehensive water supply management plan that is submitted by each water supplier selling greater than 50 MGY (million gallons per year) to the, RI Water Resources Board which includes an emergency management component outlining responsibilities and actions the supplier will take to assure water supply during an emergency.

**Water supply sources** temporarily inactive are seasonal sources of supply or are sources temporarily not in use due to mechanical or water quality problems or lack of demand. These sources may be surface waters or wells. They may require an updated approval from the Department of Health prior to use.